

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMS Rail Service Announces Vision to Revitalize Shenandoah Rail Corridor, Bringing Freight, Excursions, and Rail Bikes to the Valley

Bridgeport, NJ / Shenandoah Valley, VA — SMS Rail Service, Inc. (“SMS”), is excited to announce that last year, it submitted to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Transportation Preservation Corporation (“NSVTPC”) its Proposal, with the goal of securing an operating contract for approximately 50 miles of rail line stretching from **Front Royal, Virginia, through Strasburg, to Broadway**.

Following extensive evaluation, planning, and collaboration with regional stakeholders, SMS has determined that the corridor can be **successfully revitalized** utilizing a “**rails with trails**” concept, restoring **freight rail service** to this important part of the Shenandoah Valley while also unlocking significant **tourism and recreational opportunities**.

“Our team sees enormous potential in this corridor,” said Jim Pfeiffer, Chief Operating Officers of SMS Rail Service. “With the right investment, operational expertise, and strong community partnerships, this line can once again become a vital economic artery for the region, supporting local businesses, attracting new industry, and creating memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike.”

SMS’s vision for the corridor includes:

- **Reintroducing reliable freight rail service** to support agricultural, industrial, and commercial shippers throughout the Shenandoah Valley
- **Launching excursion train operations** that highlight the Valley’s natural beauty, history, and charm
- **Developing rail bike experiences** to attract outdoor enthusiasts and families, expanding tourism and seasonal visitation



Steam Locomotive #9 pulls a trainload of folks visiting with Santa on December 14, 2025 – Steve Barry photo

By combining proven short-line railroad operations with innovative tourism offerings, SMS aims to create a **sustainable, multi-use rail corridor** that benefits local communities, municipalities, and businesses along the route.

“Railroads have always played a central role in the Shenandoah Valley’s history,” added Pfeiffer. “We’re excited about the opportunity to participate in the writing of the next chapter—one that blends economic development, heritage, and recreation.”

SMS Rail looks forward to continuing discussions with the NSVTPC and Commonwealth and regional partners as the process moves forward.



On an overcast day in May, SMS locomotive No. 308 switches a customer at Bridgeport, New Jersey – Casey Peters photo

About SMS Rail Service, Inc.

SMS Rail Service, Inc. is a Class III common rail carrier and logistics company providing rail transportation, transloading, and intermodal services across the Mid-Atlantic region. SMS Rail is known for its hands-on approach, strong community partnerships, and ability to revitalize underutilized rail assets.

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